

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223893

NESCO

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, SW

SUBJECT: UNESCO; ASSIGNMENT OF ISRAEL TO EUROPEAN
REGION

REF : STOCKHOLM 4679

1. 1974 UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE REJECTED ISRAEL'S BID FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE EUROPEAN REGION, LEAVING IT THE ONLY MEMBER STATE NOT THEN ASSIGNED. THUS, ISRAEL IS NOT SEEKING TO BE READMITTED (PARA 4 REFTTEL) BUT RATHER TO BE ADMITTED FOR FIRST TIME. THIS WAS ONE OF THE POLITICALLY INSPIRED ACTIONS THAT LED TO CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF OF FUNDS FOR UNESCO, AND IS ACTION THAT WE MUST REVERSE AT FORTH-COMING 19TH SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 30) IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF RESUMING FULL PARTICIPATION IN AND FULL PAYMENT TO UNESCO.

2. EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY BE IN RECEIPT OF BACKGROUND
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MESSAGE ON VARIOUS ISSUES THAT WILL CONFRONT US AT 1976

GENERAL CONFERENCE, AND THIS WILL COVER REGIONAL ASSIGNMENT
ISSUE. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, YOU CAN INFORM GOS THAT
U. S. IS OPTIMISTIC THAT ISRAEL WILL BE ASSIGNED TO
EUROPEAN REGION THIS TIME.

3. USG IS SUPPORTING A PROCEDURAL CHANGE THAT HAS APPROVAL
OF DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW, AND WAS RECOMMENDED BY UNESCO
EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHICH IS THAT HENCEFORTH, THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE BASE ITS ACTION ON REQUESTS BY MEMBER STATES
FOR REGIONAL ASSIGNMENT ON THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE
COUNTRIES IN THE REGION CONCERNED. THE PROBLEM IN 1974
WAS THAT ALL MEMBERS OF UNESCO VOTED ON ALL REGIONAL
ASSIGNMENTS, AND THE ARABS WERE ABLE TO ORGANIZE ENOUGH
VOTES TO REJECT ISRAEL'S BID. WE BELIEVE THAT IF ONLY
THE MEMBERS OF UNESCO'S EUROPEAN REGION WERE TO VOTE ON
ISRAEL'S RENEWED REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THAT
REGION, ISRAEL WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD ASK GOS TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED
PROCEDURAL CHANGE WHEN IT IS PROPOSED AT 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE, AND IF THE CHANGE IS APPROVED, TO VOTE IN
SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S RENEWED REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT TO
EUROPEAN REGION. KISSINGER

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